

# Crosstalk

Spring 2020 Issue The Good News From St. Barbara

## Focusing on the Good

Friends,

We are in a very trying time. I don't know about you but I am beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel, and am focusing on all of the good that is already coming out of this situation.

Families are reconciling and coming close together. People are returning to the faith. Our world is being cleansed of pollution and waste. People with money and Hollywood stars and musicians are focusing on what is really important.



**I believe God is calling us back to what is important.  
Let's pray that we are listening.**

I can't wait until the day that we are all back in Church together!!  
~ God Bless,  
Father John

## Stay Connected

- Visit our website, [stbarbaraky.org](http://stbarbaraky.org)
- Download the **St. Barbara Church** app on mobile devices
- Subscribe to receive the weekly bulletin by email at [parishesonline.com](http://parishesonline.com)
- Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SaintBarbaraErlanger](https://facebook.com/SaintBarbaraErlanger)
- Give online [stbarbaraky.weshareonline.org](http://stbarbaraky.weshareonline.org)
- Watch Masses online on our **website** or on **Facebook**



Father John celebrating Mass on Easter Sunday with Deacon Chuck.

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## Rocktoberfest Update

St. Barbara Church is proud to announce the 10th anniversary of Rocktoberfest, but who would have anticipated the state of the world amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We all know parishioners, families, and businesses who have been severely impacted in some way by this virus and pray that this letter finds you safe and healthy.

St. Barbara Church is uncertain of when life will return to a state of "normal" or if Rocktoberfest will even take place. We are keeping an open mind and praying that our government officials will lead us quickly through this pandemic and instruct the state on how to proceed with public events.

The Festival Steering Committee along with Fr. John has met and collectively decided that St. Barbara needs a minimum of 60 days to make Rocktoberfest happen! Rocktoberfest is the 11th-13th of September and by July 12th we are hoping for the go ahead! The official word will be posted on the St. Barbara website and an email will be sent to all parishioners when a final decision is made.

Rocktoberfest is more than just your average festival. It's an event that unites parishioners, families, businesses and the community. If the festival is a "go" we know it may be scaled back and contributions may be limited. Regardless of where we end up, we want everyone to come together and enjoy the faith, fun and fellowship that Rocktoberfest has to offer.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at Rocktoberfest.



## Pictures in the Pews

By Deacon Chuck Melville

Our families, our communities, and our parish have been experiencing very difficult times. We as human beings are social creatures. We gather to celebrate, to support, to mourn, and to pray together. In this time of pandemic and social distancing it can seem like we are losing touch with each other. Handshakes and hugs may be a thing of the past. We have been asked to refrain from meeting to share the Eucharist in person to protect us all from the COVID-19 virus. Since March 21st, we have been live-streaming Holy Mass on the weekends and began streaming weekday Masses after Easter.

I can tell you that it is eerie assisting at Mass in an empty church. I suppose it is like a radio DJ or a TV news person, speaking into a microphone and not knowing if anyone else is really out there.

Youth Director John Kidwell sent out a request that “his kids” email him their selfies, then printed out the 8x10 pictures and taped them to the backs of the pews. At first I just chuckled about it. But each time I looked, I was able to see and reconnect in a little way, with our parish family. I see familiar faces, some in their usual places, smiling back. There’s even one or two looking drowsy, just like a regular Sunday Mass. I can tell you, it helps.

But, pictures and internet streaming can never replace our community celebrations of the Mass. We come together and share the Sacred Word of God, and we experience the Liturgy of the Eucharist and receive the Body of Christ. We gather together as the Body of Christ, for each other, both physically and spiritually. I explain to our RCIA candidates that the Mass is like going to a friend’s home for dinner. We exchange personal greetings, we may reconcile any minor differences and then exchange life stories. We may have brought a gift of food or drink to share with our host and then we bless the food and partake. Afterwards, we bid one another goodbye and take a good feeling home to share with others. What a blessing to be able to share ourselves in the presence of our God.

We are starting to recognize the real gift we have in the availability of the Sacraments, of being able to go to Mass and receiving the Eucharist daily, if we so wish. Usually it’s just a call to get a priest for the Sacrament of the Sick or Reconciliation. But now, things aren’t so convenient. The pandemic has restricted our movements and freedoms. We can forget that those freedoms, those conveniences, like God’s love and forgiveness, are gifts that we have taken for granted.

So, if we can’t assemble for the Supper of the Lord, what should we be doing? I believe this period of fasting from the Eucharist creates an opportunity for living out our Christian witness and service in the world. We are called to evangelize, so share God’s love and forgiveness in the world. The Eucharistic food we have been receiving regularly is preparing us for the next step — to live each day with thanksgiving, and to be thankful in service to our fellow human beings.

We need to be more than just “pictures in the pews.” As Christians we must act. Mass and Church are not about what we receive; it is about what we take away — better what we give away, to others. We receive God’s love and forgiveness. It is up to each of us to share that same love and forgiveness, just as Jesus does.

We pray the Lord will continually remind us that because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we are never absent from God and God is never absent from us. May the Holy Spirit burn a deeper desire for the spiritual benefits of Mass during this time of our inability to participate in the Eucharistic liturgy at church.

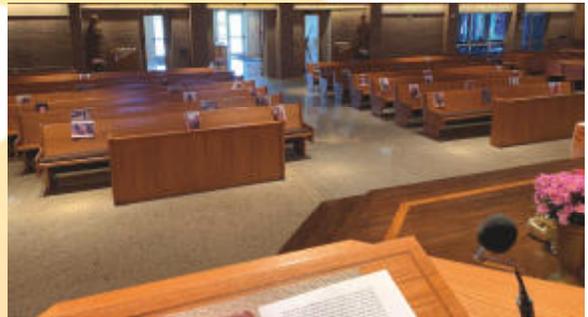
## Youth Group: Together in Spirit

By Courtney Mueller

Even when the Youth Group can’t meet in person, they still find a way to be together. While they would normally meet in the youth room on Wednesday nights, over the last few weeks, they have been meeting on Zoom. During these Zoom meetings, they talk about upcoming events and make plans for when they are able to reconvene.

In addition to spending time together on Zoom, the Youth Group members also decided that they wanted to help Father John and Deacon Chuck feel their presence in church. Just before Easter, the Youth Group started sending selfies to John Kidwell to print and post in the church so that they could celebrate mass with Father John and Deacon Chuck. Since then, many other parishioners have also sent in selfies to be posted in the church.

Our Youth Group is truly proof that, while we can’t be together in person, we are always together in spirit.



## Inspiring Stewards Among Us

By Kaitlyn Bowen

Since my family and I started going to church at St. Barbara many years ago, my parents, Sam and Tina Bowen, have become what I would call a good example of true stewardship.

They quickly became Eucharistic ministers, worked the annual fish fries, became lectors, volunteered at the festival, and worked the annual turkey shoots without batting an eye.

Of course, all of the stewardship that my parents were doing would eventually lead me to become a server, a rosary leader, and would spark my interest in becoming a Eucharistic minister, myself.

Not only did they spark my interest in helping around at church but outside in the community. I went on a few Mission trips and helped at Hosea House.

I chose to do these things because that was the way I was raised — to do things for others out of the goodness of my heart.

I am so lucky that I have my parents to look to whenever I need an example of stewardship.



## CRU View

By Peggy Casey

It is a great time to be a part of the Crusader community! The completion of the "Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith" 43,000 square foot expansion project is propelling an already incredible St. Henry District High School to the next level. The Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D., Bishop of Covington provided the blessing and dedication of the \$7.8 million building project on Sunday, February 16.



Thank you to all who supported the capital campaign! Working tirelessly on the project were St. Barbara parishioners Boone and Karen Riegler (campaign co-chairs) and Beckie Middendorf (SHDHS Advancement Director). Thank you to all who supported the capital campaign! These new addition facilities will provide St. Henry students with engaging new spaces to learn, grow and succeed for years to come.

Once the restrictions on large gatherings are lifted, and schools are reopened, the facilities at SHDHS will be available for rent and may be utilized by the local community, district parishes and schools, the Diocese, alumni and outside groups for various types of events. To learn more, visit [theater.shdhs.org](http://theater.shdhs.org) or contact the Fine Arts Facility Manager at [theater@shdhs.org](mailto:theater@shdhs.org).

The SHDHS Drama Department performed its first musical, Hello, Dolly!, in the new Drees Homes Auditorium. Congratulations to the cast, crew, parents and staff for the wonderful production!



Congratulations to the SHDHS juniors who have been accepted into prestigious Kentucky programs: four students for the Governor's Scholars Program, one student for the Governor's School for the Arts, and one student for the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs. They competed on a state-wide level and endured rigorous application and selection processes to earn the opportunity to attend these distinguished summer programs.

To learn more about the great things happening at SHDHS throughout the year, visit [shdhs.org](http://shdhs.org) or [facebook.com/StHenryCRU](https://www.facebook.com/StHenryCRU).



## Connected, Confident and Contributing

By Dennis Wolff, Principal



Thank you to everyone that supported our Crusader Royale on March 7. It was a great night where people had fun and resulted in a lot of support for the school. Under the Royale umbrella, just more than \$60,000 was raised for the school! Once the Cru Club (our new school-wide sponsorship effort) is added in, the final Crusader Royale earnings will be a little more than \$77,000. That's amazing!! The Royale was truly a display of our community being Crusader Strong!

I don't know that anyone could have predicted the impact of COVID-19 on our daily routine, including educating our children. Teachers have become tech experts, parents have become teachers and everyone has come together for our students. Here is what our St. Henry families are saying about the experience:

- *I just want to praise the work of the teachers! I'm amazed at what they managed to organize and get together! Well done!*
- *I've gained a greater appreciation for what the teachers go through each day!*
- *The entire faculty and staff have done an amazing job trying to keep as much normalcy as possible.*
- *I have been so impressed by the faculty and my kids during this time. They are finding their routines and the flexibility of the teachers has been great as the kids re-adjust.*
- *Just wanted to [say] how amazing teachers are doing during NTI. Teachers post daily videos reviewing the tasks of the day and her Zooms for spelling and reading are perfect — I think it's enough interaction for the kids and it makes them feel like they are in class and still get that school feeling while taking their tests.*
- *[Regarding video lessons]: [The teacher] could tell today [my son] wasn't quite getting the concepts so she set up a one-on-one video conference for him to go over the lesson again. He was able to get the lesson and I could see his confidence growing throughout the lesson.*
- *Thanks for all you guys do!*

Stay connected with us on [facebook.com/sthenryscool](https://www.facebook.com/sthenryscool) and our website [sthenryscool.net](http://sthenryscool.net).

## First Reconciliation

Our 29 CCD students celebrated their First Reconciliation on February 19th.

Each child made a "wooly" lamb and a clay bowl, and received a memento pin from Father John.

Congratulations to all of them!



**Congratulations to the 2020 grade school, high school, and college graduates from our parish!**

## Ministry Spotlight: St. Vincent de Paul

By Courtney Mueller



On April 23, 1883, Frederic Ozanam and six of his friends from the University of Paris started a group they decided to call the Conference of Charity. Over the next year, the group of students helped people in Paris who were most in need, sought out the assistance of Sr. Rosalie Rendu (pictured on the right) to learn how to work with those in need, and changed the name of the group to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Since 1910, St. Vincent de Paul has been active in northern Kentucky. For many members, home visits are at the heart of the ministry, but there are many ways to get involved. Whether it is working at one of the area thrift stores or mentoring others through the Life Learning Center, the members of St. Vincent de Paul go above and beyond in their efforts to help our community. For more information on how to get involved or to learn more about St. Vincent de Paul, parishioners are invited to contact John Kramer at [kramericana52@aol.com](mailto:kramericana52@aol.com).

Even in the face of COVID-19, our St. Barbara Conference has remained active. Since they cannot visit clients, the Vincentians continue their ministry over the phone. Dennis Coyne says, "We still apply the same guidelines that we would do in person – solidarity, compassion, and service." The Vincentians have also found ways to still deliver the same services. While they would normally deliver food during home visits, they schedule a time to leave food at the clients' doors. They arrange rental and utility assistance over the phone and mail clothing and furniture vouchers to the clients for their use in the St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores to meet their personal needs.

To summarize the work St. Vincent de Paul does, Dennis Coyne quoted Blessed Sr. Rosalie Rendu: "Be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the [vulnerable]. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you can bring to them."

## Holy Hour and Benediction

During this time of stress and social distancing, many people are turning to the practice of their Faith for spiritual support. We have not been able to share the Eucharist at Mass because of COVID-19 but we have shared a spiritual communion with our live-streamed Masses. Our Adoration Chapel has been busy but we needed to limit the capacity for health reasons. With this in mind, Father John has decided to hold a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and ending with Benediction. This will be held on Thursday evenings from 7—8 pm beginning May 28. Our goal is to be together in the church if the requirements allow, but we are making plans for a virtual Holy Hour if necessary.

To learn about stewardship opportunities at our parish, please go to the Ministry tab on our parish website or app.

### Who inspires you? Share the good news!

Suggestions for the Stewardship and Ministry features are welcomed and can be sent to [crosstalk@stbarbaraky.org](mailto:crosstalk@stbarbaraky.org).

## Let It Shine

By Don Rohman

... so here we are — at what would have been the last CCD class of 2019-2020.

It always coincides with the May Crowning. We gather together at Church, students, teachers, parents, priest and deacon to end our year of religious education with the Crowning of Mary.

Mrs. Koop calls each class up with a parade of flowers and a beautiful crown to honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.

Most of the classes do religious skits, the 2nd Graders sing "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let it Shine!" and the 7th Grade hands out awards as Mrs. Blackwood calls the names of the 8th Graders who are finishing their CCD and preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Father John and Deacon Chuck talk and pray with us. Then, the Youth Group, led by John Kidwell, ends the night with a group song. The building is full of life, friendship, fun songs and performances, and a great feeling of connection to our Church!

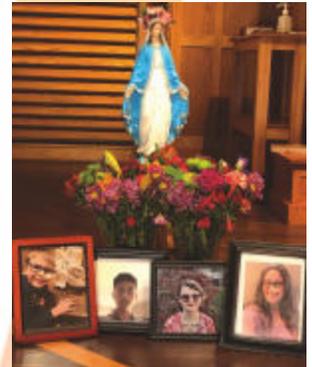
So, yes, this isn't the same experience this year, but it is still our Church and I challenge all of us to think back on the things we learned, the laughs we had, the ways we advanced in our Faith and the friends we made — and bottle those up in our hearts and hold on to them until we meet again. And make no mistake about it ... **we will let our lights shine and fill the Church again with the Love, Laughter and Faithfulness that makes St. Barbara such an Amazing Parish!!**

## May Crowning

Father John and Deacon Chuck represented all of us for the May Crowning as they sang a hymn to Mary, our Blessed Mother, followed by Father crowning her statue near the altar.

At the base of the statue are photos of First Communion candidate Andrew Williams and three Confirmation candidates, Andrew Toler, Trisha Schlenker, and Madison Kirst.

The broadcast of the May 1st ceremony before Mass is available on the St. Barbara website.



## Our Parish Family

### New Parishioners

Christine Browning  
Jennifer Egan  
Jared & Nicole Carey  
Roxann Foltz  
Katie McDermott  
Trey & Barbara Mace  
Jacob & Lena Samad  
Jim & Kim Richmond

### In Memoriam

Donna Kopp